

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TOM CAMPBELL

(R) 2nd Legislative District



*Serving the citizens of
Graham, Spanaway,
Parkland, Eatonville, Orting,
Puyallup's South Hill,
Ft. Lewis, DuPont, and
part of Tacoma.*

OLYMPIA OFFICE:

403 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7912
1-800-562-6000 (Toll-free)

HOME:

P.O. Box 443
Spanaway, WA 98387

E-MAIL:

campbell_to@leg.wa.gov

**HOUSE COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS:**

Health Care – co-chair
Children and Family Services



CONTROLLING TAXES AND MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU

A REPORT ON THE 2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dear Friends,

This report is written as though the 2001 legislative session is truly over, although the governor has hinted at the possibility of calling us back to the Capitol again – as he did three times already this year.

I have mixed feelings about the outcome of this session. We passed measures that will frustrate and hopefully discourage methamphetamine makers, give taxpayers greater value for their transportation tax dollars, and improve Washington's energy policy. However, I am very concerned about the decision to locate a sex-predator facility in Pierce County, and the unsustainable 2001-03 budget for state government operations.

Then there are the issues that must wait for another day, primarily because of the even division of Republicans and Democrats in the House of Representatives and a near-tie in the Senate. At the top of my list for the 2002 session are taking a responsible approach to traffic congestion relief, and aiding the growing number of seniors and other fragile people who still don't have affordable access to the medications they need.

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative. I am very grateful to all of you who called, e-mailed, wrote to me and visited during the session and since to share your concerns, and your ideas for helping government to serve citizens better. Representative government works best when you get involved.

Sincerely,

Tom Campbell

INSIDE:

- State budget is recipe for tax increase, service cuts
- New transportation laws to give 'more miles per dollar'
- A bipartisan path to better prescription-drug access
- New roadblocks for methamphetamine makers

TOWN HALL MEETING NOTICE

**Saturday
Sept. 22**

2 - 3:30 p.m.
Parkland/Spanaway Library
13718 Pacific Ave. S.

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Graham Library
9202 224th E.

STATE'S NEW BUDGET IS RECIPE FOR A TAX INCREASE

In a word, the \$22.78 billion budget adopted by the Legislature to fund two more years of state government operations is a "fantasy" budget. Anyone who thinks it can be sustained without drastic action down the road is living in a fantasy world.

I voted against this irresponsible budget, which ignores the state's economic condition, taxpayer demands for greater accountability, and the needs of seniors and others who truly need government help. The priorities in the budget aren't the priorities I see in the 2nd District, or throughout Washington.



Over the next two years this plan will spend \$667 million more than the state expects to take in, through taxes and other revenue sources. Also, it spends \$668 million of "one-time" money on ongoing programs. Our households and businesses would go bankrupt if we took that approach.

I had hoped we might reach a responsible compromise between the smaller, sustainable budget originally adopted by the House, and the plan adopted by the Senate. But when the Senate walked away from efforts to settle the differences, and its budget came up for a vote, I had to vote no. **I will not be forced into accepting a budget or any bill that is contrary to the good of my constituents.**

GETTING GREATER VALUE FOR YOUR TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS

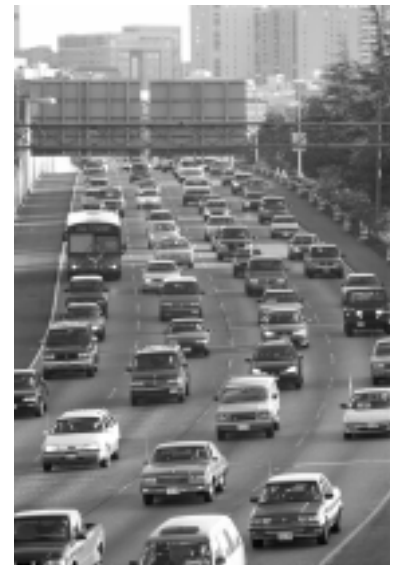
Clearly, we need a transportation infrastructure capable of supporting growth in our area. But the statewide funding packages that have been proposed – totaling \$8 billion and more – would represent the largest tax increase in state history. I believe the voters deserve to decide directly whether they want to take on such a commitment; I work for you, not the lobbyists in our Capitol.

Many of you called or wrote to me in response to a transportation survey I mailed to your homes this summer. I thank you for taking the time to share your views, and I was ready to take them before the full House, in the event that any transportation package came to the floor for a vote. However, the governor and the Senate would not support a proposal that would go to the voters, so negotiations broke down.

The majority of those who replied to my transportation survey confirmed what I've been hearing throughout the 2nd District: you aren't about to go along with transportation tax increases if government keeps doing business as usual. With that in mind, I am happy to report that we passed legislation to increase the value citizens receive from the tax dollars they already pay for transportation.

One of these "efficiencies" streamlines the process needed to obtain permits for transportation construction projects. Another promotes a design-build approach that will improve coordination on projects, and a third lets the state acquire and bank right-of-way property for future construction needs.

These steps will free up millions of dollars for other highway projects. That's important, because **I don't believe the state should ask folks to make a bigger investment in transportation until we can assure them it will be a better investment.**



MORE LANES FOR MERIDIAN

Citizens who travel Meridian Road (SR 161) will get some congestion relief sooner than expected, from the \$3.4 billion transportation budget passed by the Legislature. The budget, funded by taxes and fees already being collected, fast-tracks the project to widen Meridian to five lanes between 204th Street East and 234th Street East. Work is scheduled to begin next April, which will bring completion four years sooner than originally expected. I firmly believe that the Sounder train to Seattle will not solve our local transportation needs. We need new roads, and more lanes for the roads we already have.

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As co-chair of the House Health Care Committee, Rep. Campbell is pushing hard to help more senior citizens, particularly those with low incomes, deal with the rising cost of prescription medicines – which limits access to the drugs they need.

MAPPING A BIPARTISAN PATH TO BETTER PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

The role of prescription medications in the practice of medicine is only increasing. However, Medicare does not include a prescription drug benefit. That can add up to thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs for many Washington senior citizens who cannot afford prescription medication insurance coverage.

The result this session was a set of four prescription-related measures that have bipartisan support. This legislation would have an immediate, positive effect on our seniors. However, like a long-term transportation solution, it must wait.

BETTER ACCESS TO CANCER TREATMENT

One in nine women in our state will face breast cancer in her lifetime. For the past 10 years, all the state could do was give a woman the bad news that cancer has been detected. It would be up to her to find and pay for treatment on her own. I was co-prime sponsor of House Bill 1058. Now, low-income women who have been diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through a state-run screening program also will have access to publicly funded treatment.



STEPPING UP THE FIGHT AGAINST METH

The methamphetamine epidemic in our state continues to grow. Year in and year out, Pierce County ranks first statewide in the number of meth labs reported – 543 meth labs in 2000 alone. Fortunately, the citizens of the 2nd District are responding. Our special town hall meeting about methamphetamine drew a standing-room crowd to the McKenna Community Church during the legislative session. I was pleased to hear your ideas and appreciate your taking time out of your weekend to attend.

Lawmakers put up a direct roadblock to meth makers with a new law that restricts the sale and possession of “precursor” drugs that are meth ingredients – particularly ephedrine, a common ingredient in cold medicines. We provided more than \$1.4 million to establish a regional methamphetamine enforcement, training and education program, add three officers to the statewide meth lab response team, and add two experts to conduct crime lab analysis.



But we must go farther. I was lead Republican sponsor of House Bill 2082, which essentially would give law enforcement officers the ability to get children away from a place where meth is being made, and take them into protective custody. The House passed it, but the Senate failed to vote on it.

I am a long-time advocate of making the production and distribution of meth a “strike” under the “Three Strikes, You’re Out” law. A bill to do that passed the House Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee, but failed to clear the House Appropriations (Budget) Committee.

PROTECTING PIERCE COUNTY FROM THE STATE

I don’t know which is worse: the Department of Social and Health Services’ desperate scheme to place a sex-offender transitional housing project on McNeil Island, or the approach used by the governor and DSHS – using the state’s lawmaking process to get around DSHS’ own siting criteria, and Pierce County’s land-use rules.

My priority as a legislator is to maintain, if not improve, the quality of life for people in my district. Our county must not become the dumping ground for the state’s undesirables. I will oppose any future efforts to jam similar facilities down

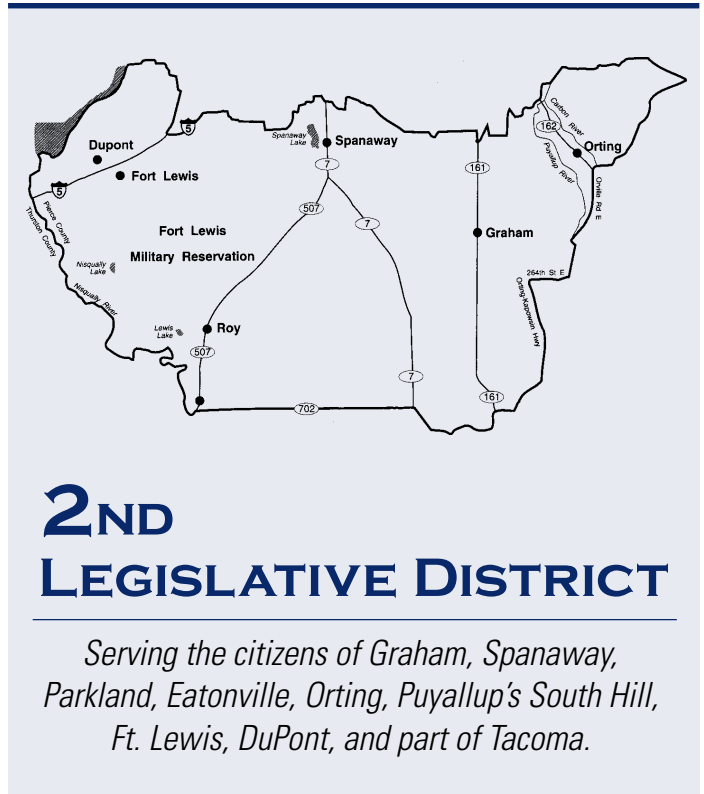
MAKING IT EASIER TO GENERATE NEW POWER

It's been a quarter-century since a major commitment to new power generation was made in our state. That caught up with us in the form of an energy crisis that has eased with mild summer weather but is sure to return by winter. The answer is more power, which is why I supported the passage of major energy legislation focused on getting new power to our region's energy grid.



The bill (House Bill 2247) addresses the shortsightedness of our state's energy policy during the 1990s, by encouraging construction of new power-generating facilities while promoting renewable energy sources. It won't reduce anyone's power bill in the short term, but **it is a long-overdue move that would make it easier to increase our power-generating capacity.**

It will take time for these steps to affect your utility bill. In the meantime, I sponsored emergency legislation that made \$5 million available to help low-income families with rising power bills.



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